

## Helicopter Parents

Based on articles found in the *Salt Lake Tribune* and *The Chronicle of Higher Education*

Pope, Justin (2007) 'Helicopter parents' patrol their kids' lives at college. *The Salt Lake Tribune*, November 5<sup>th</sup>, A B2.

Merriman, Lynette S. (2007) It's your child's education, not yours. *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, B20.

'Helicopter Parents' the named earned by parents whose involvement in their child's lives has extended past the adolescent years and into early adulthood. Helicopter Parents may attend college classes, rove around career fairs to promote their child among future employers, call in maintenance problems for their child's dorm or apartment, and intervene to solve a problem at college. Parents report being concerned for their child's safety and see no reason to stop taking care of things for their children even if the child is now in college.

What types of parents choose not to 'cut the apron strings?' Parents from all education and income levels intervene on their child's behalf. The results are that children are more engaged in extracurricular activities and in classes. They report enjoying the college experience more. They also get lower grades and some ask how the child is supposed to develop into a responsible, decision-making adult?